issuing a Final Supplement Analysis. The Department considered the information and analyses in the Final Supplement Analysis and made a determination that the SSM PEIS need not be supplemented nor a new SSM PEIS be prepared.

Signed in Washington, DC, this 3rd day of September 1999, for the United States Department of Energy.

Thomas F. Gioconda,

Brigadier General, USAF, Acting Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs.

[FR Doc. 99–24163 Filed 9–15–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Fire Protection Systems Upgrade, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

AGENCY: Office of Science, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to upgrade the fire suppression and life safety systems in selected facilities at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Fire suppression and life safety systems in these facilities are over 30 years old, obsolete, and do not provide adequate fire protection for personnel, equipment, and research activities. The installation of belowground waterlines would include disturbances of two small wetland areas and the 100-year floodplain of White Oak Creek (WOC). In accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022, DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment which will assess impacts to these resources and consider practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetlands. This proposed action will be performed in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain and wetlands.

DATES: Comments are due to the address below no later than October 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Mr. Stanley Frey, Capital Asset Program Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Post Office Box 2008, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831–6269. Comments may be faxed to (423) 574–9275.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS PROPOSED ACTION, CONTACT: Stanley D. Frey, U.S. Department of Energy, Post Office Box 2008, Oak Ridge, TN 37831–6269, (423) 576–0136.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL DOE FLOODPLAIN/WETLAND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, CONTACT: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH–42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586–4600 or (800) 472–2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DOE is conducting response actions at its ORNL Oak Ridge Site under the direction of the DOE Office of Science. ORNL is located on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation in Roane and Anderson Counties, Tennessee. As part of a comprehensive upgrade of the existing fire alarm and suppression systems, DOE is proposing to replace deteriorated and obsolete systems, and to extend coverage of automatic fire alarm and sprinkler systems to areas not previously served. The upgrades would reduce maintenance costs and the new systems would bring affected facilities into compliance with current fire safety codes and standards.

The proposed action would involve removing old fire alarm and suppression systems and installing new ones, including: (1) Replacing antiquated fire alarm systems in seven major research buildings (Buildings 4500N, 4500S, 4501, etc.); (2) installing a sprinkler system in offices and corridors of Wings 1–4 of Building 4500N; (3) replacing and adding redundancy in the fire alarm and circuit monitoring systems where needed; and (4) replacing an existing 16-inch-diameter water pipeline in the 6000 area with approximately 7,200 ft of new (16-in-diameter) water piping. Installation of new water mains would include pressure reducing valves, isolation valves, fittings, hydrants, valve pits, and other associated equipment and materials.

Installation of the belowground waterlines would include disturbances of two small wetland areas and the floodplains of WOC in the 6000 area of ORNL. WOC and its tributaries would be disturbed at four locations by the following activities: (1) Constructing a coffer dam or similar structure; (2) routing the stream water around the site by constructing a bypass using a culvert or similar device; (3) removing stream bed rock in preparation for the under-creek, reinforced-concrete pipe trench; (4) pouring the concrete; (5) embedding the pipeline in the concrete structure; (6) covering the structure to the level of the original stream bed; and (7) routing the stream water back into the stream bed. Construction activities would also involve removing asphalt paving for the installation of the 16-in-diameter pipe (ductile iron, mechanical joint), digging a trench approximately 4 ft deep in the access roadway and parking lot areas, and filling and repaving these areas after installation of the pipeline.

Water quality within WOC and its tributaries would be protected during excavation to the extent practicable by several measures. Administrative controls would be used to stop work during major storm events. When excavations would remain exposed overnight, erosion controls would be installed to prevent the transport of silt downstream by stormwater flows. Additionally, silt dams will be constructed within the drainage in areas where the existing right-of-way route deviates significantly from the defined channel. Restoration of excavated areas within the drainage would include grading to avoid steep or vertical slopes, and to minimize ponding and backfilling. Areas of exposed soil outside the stream channels would be mulched and reseeded with an annual grass to minimize erosion and allow the natural seedbank to reestablish vegetative cover.

Wetland 1 is a 5-to-8 ft wide and approximately 50 ft long emergent wetland, while Wetland 2 is an approximately 30-ft diameter irregular shaped scrub-shrub wetland. An approximately 5-ft-wide by 4-ft-deep trench would be excavated through the southern portion of the two wetlands for the installation of belowground piping. Equipment and personnel in the wetland area will be limited in accordance with an approved Best Management Practices (BMP) plan, and excavated hydric soils would be placed next to the site and reused as fill material. In addition, silt fences would be installed to minimize runoff into the wetlands in accordance with the BMP. No seeding or the planting of vegetation will take place, and the wetlands will be allowed to return to their natural states after completion of excavation activities.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR Part 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment for this proposed DOE action. After DOE issues the assessment, a floodplain Statement of Findings will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on August 30, 1999.

James L. Elmore,

Alternate NEPA Compliance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99–24161 Filed 9–15–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P